

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/000,445

Examiner

Minerva Rivero

Applicant(s)

KOMATSU, EIJI

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/27/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

MR

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Appeal Brief, filed 12/27/05, with respect to Claims 1-14 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of Claims 1-14 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-14 are allowed.

3. Regarding claims 1 and 7, Norton *et al.* disclose an interactive speech interface unit and system comprising:

a speech recognizer that recognizes input speech of user utterance and converts the recognized input speech into a character string (Col. 30, Lines 12-15);

an input statement analyzer that analyzes the character string and converting the analyzed character string into semantic representation (Natural Language Interpreter, Col. 30, Lines 15-18);

an output statement generator that generating an intermediate language to be outputted to the user (*text-to-speech hardware*, Col. 30, Lines 18-23);

Art Unit: 2655

a speech generator that converts the intermediate language into speech and outputs the speech (*text-to-speech hardware*, Col. 30, Lines 18-23);

interactive control means for controlling flow of an interactive status and accessing an application (*Dialog Manager*, Col. 30, Lines 45-50);

application interface means for accessing the application using the semantic representation outputted from the interactive control means (*Dialog Manager*, Col. 5, Lines 20-25);

an interactive task hierarchical database storing a plurality of interactive tasks each of which includes an interactive sequence in a hierarchical structure so that the interactive tasks include an upper interactive task and a lower interactive task (Col. 5, Lines 37-43; Figs. 2A-2C and 3A-3B; Col. 3, Lines 27-34);

However, Norton *et al.* do not explicitly disclose nor fairly suggest an interactive controller that controls flow of an interactive status and accessing an application, the interactive controller putting series of interactive sequences having calling relations together in a plurality of interactive tasks having an upper interactive task and a lower interactive task in hierarchical structure, the interactive controller *modifying* one of the interactive sequences in an upper interactive task in accordance with a lower interactive task.

Therefore claims 1 and 7, and their dependent claims, 2-6 and 8-14, respectively, are allowed.

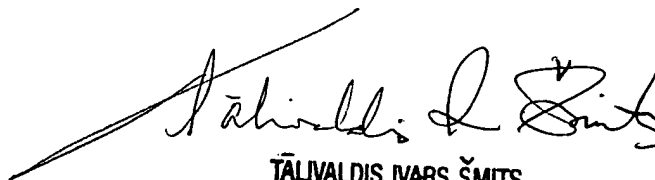
Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minerva Rivero whose telephone number is (571) 272-7626. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on (571) 272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MR 3/2/06



TĀLIVALDIS IVARS ŠMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER